

SENATE BILL 3971

By Black

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
relative to health.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 68-11-269.

(a) Any hospital that provides birthing services shall provide written educational material containing information about the possible complications, proper care and support associated with newborn infants who are born premature at thirty-six (36) weeks gestational age or less. At a minimum, the written information shall include the following:

(1) The unique health issues affecting infants born premature, such as the increased risk of developmental problems, nutritional challenges, infection, chronic lung disease (bronchopulmonary dysplasia), vision and hearing impairment, breathing problems, feeding, maintaining body temperature, jaundice, hyperactivity, infant mortality and long-term complications associated with fine motor skills, reading, writing, mathematics and speaking;

(2) The proper care needs of premature infants, developmental screenings and monitoring and health care services available to premature infants;

(3) Infectious disease and methods to prevent or minimize infections common to premature infants; and

(4) Community resources to assist parents and family members with the care and support of premature infants.

(b) The materials shall be written in clear language in order to educate parents of premature infants across a variety of socioeconomic statuses and updated at least every two (2) years.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.